

MARCH, 1981

Our Square
World

ADVANCE



firstborn

A Christian Home
Discovers
The Joys of Adoption

local church

Bobby sits at the table in his Sunday school classroom at Angelus Temple, happily responding to his favorite song, "Jesus Loves Me." Beside him is his teacher, patiently sharing God's love with him. Bobby receives individual attention in his class because he is "special." A Down's Syndrome child, Bobby, at eight years of age, presently has a developmental capacity of a 6 months — 2 year old. Yet, Reverend Ruthellen Crawford, Bobby's teacher and the Minister of Special Education at Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, California, reminds us that all of us are handicapped in some way. The only difference is that some of our handicaps are hidden. We all have imperfections, and therefore we all need to experience the love and grace of God. Even Bobby can be aware of God's love through the lives of those who patiently care for his needs.

Today, there are eight million mentally retarded people in the United States (about 2% of the population). This does not even begin to encompass those who have physical handicaps or a combination of special needs. Yet, the many needs of these "special" people have often been ignored or neglected by the church. This is not true, however, at Angelus Temple where a group of people, under the direction of Ruthellen Crawford, are faithfully ministering to the spiritual, emotional, mental, physical and social needs of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped people in their own church and community.

The special education Sunday school and churchtime class, which also accommodates the Angelus Temple Latin congregation, exposes the children with learning disabilities to a full Sunday school and church program geared to their individual needs. The class is conducted on a one-to-one basis, including group interaction and awareness. During this time the Holy Spirit is allowed the opportunity to enlighten the student, using the teachers as instruments of service. Included under the special education ministries of Angelus Temple is the ministry to the deaf. Pamela Gilkey interprets for the deaf during the Sunday morning service and also leads a group of the deaf and hearing impaired within the framework of the Shepherd Care ministry of Angelus Temple. (Shepherd Care Ministries includes a meeting held in various homes the first Wednesday of each month for a time of Bible study, fellowship-care, and evangelism.) A special Shepherd Care group also meets in the Angelus Temple Family Center each month as the rest of the congregation meets in homes. This is a unique group as many are physically or mentally disabled, making it difficult for them to at-



Bobby enjoys the special love and attention he receives when he spends the weekend at Ruthellen's home from time to time.

Ministering To God's Special People

tend a home meeting. Cherry Youngblood has made it possible for the blind students to study the lessons right along with everyone else as she has translated them into braille. In addition, Ruthellen visits with a retarded adult in her home on a regular basis because she is unable to attend the special group at the church. Also involved in this ministry to "special" people is the Angelus Temple U.F.W. group, which helps to sponsor a local home for the retarded.

In addition to her ministry in the church, Ruthellen Crawford has worked in recent years at the Lowman Development Center for the Handicapped, a school which is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District. During her time at the school she has worked with the profound and severely retarded children, with the orthopedic handicapped, and presently with the preschool non-categorical children. These children have a variety of needs which may include lack of speech, impaired hearing, cerebral palsy, physical defects, and social maladjustment. Ruthellen has discovered that the Holy Spirit acts as a magnet even in the field of secular work. The parents of these children often share voluntarily about the spiritual exposure the child has had. The parents are aware that having a Christian working in the public school can be a plus in the care for their "special" child.

Ruthellen's first exposure to working with the mentally retarded, most of which also had a physical handicap, came about out of the necessity to work. The Lord led her to the "Good Shepherd Home of the West" in Apple Valley, California, where she would spend the next two years experiencing new and challenging opportunities every day. From there she spent four years teaching mentally retarded adults their special skills at the Lynchburg Training School and Hospital in Virginia. As the residents there became more aware of themselves and their surroundings, the desire to expose them to spiritual things began to burn deeply within Ruthellen's heart. From there the Lord led Ruthellen step



*Reverend Ruthellen Crawford
Minister of Special Education
Angelus Temple*

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PEOPLE

firstborn



By Reverend Linda Norris. Linda and her husband, Ron, served on the pastoral staff of the Van Nuys, CA Foursquare Church for two years, where Linda was editor of "Gateways" and "The Woman's Way" magazines. They are presently pastoring the Santa Monica, CA Foursquare Church.

The phone rang very early in the morning with the news that we had an 8 pound, 15 ounce baby boy. As we walked in the front door of the hospital and down the corridors, I felt slightly stunned — like someone half awake and half dreaming. We only expected to see him through the nursery window, but then a nurse with a quiet smile and kind eyes said, "Since the other babies are with their mothers, would you like to go into the nursery for awhile?" Part of me said an emphatic "yes" and the other part felt almost afraid to meet this new and very important person in my life. Nevertheless, we followed the nurse to wash our hands and arms and put on the gowns provided. Then we entered the hospital nursery. All the trays were empty of their precious contents — except one. Our son was enfolded in a little white blanket. He was two hours old and yet so strong, bright, beautiful and calm! When I held him and looked into his deep blue eyes, I knew that this was the child the Lord had always intended for us.

Isaiah 55:8 records the Lord saying, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." Adoption has always been a part of God's broad plan and nature. Romans 8:35-39 resounds with "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ . . . (nothing) shall be able to separate us from the love of God . . ." And yet in that same passage it is also made quite clear that we are His adopted children. "... you have received the Spirit of adoption — the Spirit producing sonship — in (the bliss of) which we cry, Abba! (That is,) Father! The Spirit Himself testifies together with our own spirit, (assuring us) that we are the children of God" (vs. 15, 16 Amplified). We are adopted and we are totally His. So we begin to understand that God views the real father or mother as the one who takes responsibility at the spirit level. This is the Spirit of adoption.

Four days later, as we drove home with our white blanketed bundle asleep in my arms, my mind trailed back to six years earlier. We'd been trying to have a child for a number of months without success when someone suggested the idea of adopting. I was indignant, but tried to cover my instant anger as best I could with one brief sentence, "Why would I want someone else's baby? I'm sure we'll have our own." The spirit of those words

was just a small indication of how very small my heart was too. And small-mindedness, which is indicative of a small heart, is something that displeases the Father deeply because it totally opposes His Spirit and pattern of adopting. Over that six year period, God did a lot of restructuring in my spirit and personality. If it had not been for this time of barrenness, a vehicle of divine selection by Father God, I never would have seen how untrusting and ungrateful I was in my relationship with Him. My resentment and frustration surfaced level after level of anger stored away for the Lord. But, ever so slowly, God used my circumstances to stretch my heart to encompass the thought of taking a baby into my life that had not been physically birthed by me. He stretched me to the point of seeing that all His creatures need His love brought to them through the vessel of human beings willing to carry it. Since that time, He has entrusted us with a discipleship ministry that began in our home and He is allowing us to be mother and father to many who have that gap in their lives.

The car slowed for a red light and my mind returned to God's faithful gift in my arms. As the car moved forward again, so did my reflecting on the events that had led this child to us. Two and one-half months earlier, I attended a meeting where June Nichols was speaking. I had known June for four or five years and highly respected her teaching. That day, she said God told her to do something she had only done once before — give her testimony. I knew June had grown children, but her testimony revealed the fact that they were adopted as infants. My eyes began to well with tears. Yes, God "setteth the solitary in families . . ." (Psalm 68:6). He puts families together and when He chooses to ignore the physical and use a different or unique way to draw us into a family, it simply testifies of His vast creativity. He does whatever He needs to do to draw us near to His Father's heart. As I listened to June's testimony, God spoke to my heart, "Sing, O barren, you who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who did not travail with child! For the spiritual children of the desolate one will be more than the children of the married wife, says the Lord" (Isaiah 54:1 Amplified).

After the meeting, I thanked her for speaking what I needed to hear. Then June shared some words for me from the Lord. She said that for us it was important that we adopt a newborn baby and not an older child. This had great impact because of the fact that we were in the middle of applying through the County for an older child. We expected this to take place within the year.

I have to admit that I left the meeting that day feeling somewhat aggravated. "Sure, Lord, that's easy for her to say. Both her children were adopted over 20 years ago when there were more infants available." Because of the tremendous amount of abortions being performed today and the fact that society no longer frowns on single women keeping their babies, it is difficult at present to adopt a newborn baby. "Another thing, Lord," I continued, "June's husband is a doctor and both their children came to them through associates in the medical profession." I also reminded the Lord, "I'm 32, You know, and it takes at least five years to become eligible for an infant through the County — don't you think I've developed enough patience?" When I arrived home, I relayed June's words to my husband. He didn't struggle with it in his heart, as I had. He, too, felt a confirmation in his spirit that these words were really from the Lord. The next day we dropped our names from the application list at the County Adoption Agency.

Four weeks later the telephone rang. It was Darrellen Graves, a good friend who pastors a Foursquare church with her husband, Chip. "Linda, there's a couple in our church who have a babysitter who is 15. She's going to have a baby in about six weeks — would you and Ron consider taking the baby?" The Lord had required trust and now He was being faithful. He even arranged all the financial aspects. We had previously ruled out a privately arranged adoption for the simple reason that it is not unusual for the natural mother to request a large sum of money in addition to payment for all hospital expenses and attorney's fees — money we did not have. This young woman, who is working to pay her way through high school and college, asked no monetary remuneration and due to some special circumstances in her regard even the hospital expenses were covered. Her concern was that the baby go to a believing couple who would show the kind of love she saw in the home of the Christian couple for whom she had been babysitting. She had seen that they were the "real parents" of both their natural children and their adopted daughter. This is God-given wisdom on the part of a 15 year old girl, for she has not yet come into a personal relationship with Jesus. We pray for her often and believe the day will come when that will happen.

Each day I look into my son's deep blue eyes . . . just as I did on the morning of his birth when we were able to pray over him and knit his heart with ours . . . and every day God confirms that He is in the business of "son-placing." He knows what He's doing when it comes to adoptions! *"He planned in love for*

us to be adopted as His children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will . . ." (Ephesians 1:5, 6 Amplified). And as I look into those bright eyes, full of excitement to meet each new day, these things come across my mind. "What if . . . ? What if his natural mother had not been a young woman of wisdom? How easy for this young girl, with the law of the land behind her, to do away with this seeming 'burden' . . . do away with this child that caused raised eyebrows and nudges from her classmates at school . . . this child that was the reason the natural father broke off their relationship . . . this child that would put a nine-month pause in this young 15 year old's life. When you're 15, nine months can seem like such a long, long time. What if . . . ?" But, by God's mercy and hand of intervention she *did* bear this wonderful, laughing baby boy who has brightened every aspect of our home and marriage.

I praise the loving Father so much for sparing Caleb (a biblical name that means "faithfulness") in this dark hour when it is estimated that 8 million babies have been aborted in the United States since the 1973 Supreme Court ruling. This is more than all the lives lost in wars and accidents in this nation since 1776! It is one tiny life being taken each 1.7 minutes. And yet, like little Moses being carried downstream to another destiny when all others perished, this child was reserved for my love and care by the Lord's hand.

Because of what God has revealed to us in His Word about the Spirit of adoption, I welcome telling Caleb how uniquely he was delivered into our home. Children are a gift of God (Psalm 127:3) and He gives gifts in so many creative ways. The Lord had to stretch me to receive His large plan in exchange for my own small one. His desire is that "*Christ be completely and permanently formed (molded)*" within us (Galatians 4:19 Amplified), for when that Child is formed in our hearts, our hearts get as big as God Himself! The Father is looking for people who will not limit His ministry by indignantly refusing to encompass people other than their "own-flesh-and-blood." He is looking for believers who will be impregnated with trust in His plan by the Spirit of adoption. He yearns to love and care for all who have not known mother or father, for all who have been physically abandoned and spiritually aborted. The Lord has impressed me that Caleb is the firstborn of many to be birthed through the Spirit of adoption in my life and ministry. He is a kind of firstfruits, for I am convinced that God holds precious not only those birthed through the womb . . . but those birthed in the heart.



Caleb's bright eyes capture one's heart from the very start; Daddy and Caleb have lots of fun playing together.

Forces Forging Family Futility

Like the white-heat of a forge, used by metal workers to soften iron and steel in order to press the material into new shapes, there are forces at work in our society today. They are putting both heat and pressure on every institution, and it is apparent that none is being pressed further out of shape than the institution of the nuclear family. The fires are generated in hell and the pressure is exerted by a society; proposing and promoting values so governed by relativism and humanism that the reshaped family becomes indiscernible and then completely lost.

Consider, please, four different lines of thought which are forcing the family into a restructured mold. Those who conform to this reshaping are disintegrating, having been poured into a design that cannot bear the stress of ordinary domestic trials, much less the extraordinary dimension of pressure common to our age. They collapse completely. Romans 12:2 (Phillips) warns, "*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold*"; nonetheless, many homes do take the shape of the world — and often without recognizing it.

I see these four forces forging families into a mold which will reduce them to futility, frustration and fragmentation.

1. Indifferent attitudes toward marriage. "Non-commitment" is the trait of our times. The poetry, the music and the drama of the day propose a concept which, on its surface, sounds practical, but at its root is evil. It is perhaps summarized as well as any by the words of the Carpenter's song of a decade ago, "Ticket To Ride." Blue over the departure of her lover, the singer cries, "He said that livin' with me was bringin' him down, that he would never be free while I was around."* The lyric makes clear that at the very least, the couple was living together and they were probably married. Nevertheless, on a moment's notice and under whatever inconvenience, "a ticket to ride" away from the commitment to a life together was readily available. It promotes a way of thought — painful, but somehow justified by reason of its social acceptance.

Such non-commitment is packaged in more than popular musical terms; it is also sold in the philosophy of the day. "We are all changing, growing, maturing. It is perfectly reasonable to suppose," says the world-mind, "that a couple who marry at one point in their lives will mature in different directions. Therefore, it is logical that at some time they will need to change mates, to find a different companion for the new period of life toward which they have matured and changed and into which they are now ready to enter." The sinister power of such a concept is in its repetition from multiplied sources which press our minds; and compounded by the fact that every marriage faces trying times. When a marriage does, this and related lies can suddenly be asserted with seeming logic.

2. Infinite searching for sensual fulfillment. It is more than our merely being appalled by the grossly lewd, the obscene or the pornographic

which prompts comment. Without question, the quagmire of filth spreading around us at ever-increasing depth is a wearying landscape to behold. But we need not buy a single magazine, see a single porno-flick or open a single centerfold to be infected by the spirit of lust. The pressure of that spirit has accomplished such a breakthrough in our billboards and TV commercials that its influence is virtually inescapable.

However, that is only the fountainhead of filth. Its spray comes also as a softer rain, softly dampening those who fail to recognize the spirit of lust selling discontent: "Are You REALLY Getting The Most Of Your Sex Life?"; "Is An Alternate Part-Time Spouse Sometimes Justified?"; "Rate Your Husband/Wife As A Lover." A parade of such titles greets you at supermarket checkout stands; and thereby, every wife and mother is prompted to question her fulfillment.

As for the man, an endless array of handbooks on sexual pleasure, accessories for sexual excitement, and locker-room style remarks on the job — all these scream for the husband's reassessment of his marriage on the most course, most selfish terms. Sexual intercourse, which is a key to fulfilling communication between husband and wife, is sold as *the* key to personal gratification. Truly loving communication is sacrificed for "kicks" and the couple is pushed over a precipice on a downhill ride named "Fantasy." Once sexual interaction is traded off for *only* sensual gratification, displeasure will result with what was, in Ed Wheat's words, truly "Intended For Pleasure."

3. Ignorance in raising, teaching and disciplining children. There are few things more profound than the degree to which parental responsibility and authority have been dissipated. Combined forces are (1) confusing each parent's role, and (2) misinterpreting the relationship of the parent to child. I decry male chauvinism, social injustice and child abuse. But society's fumbling attempts at rectifying the inequitable treatment of women, undemocratic treatment of homosexuals and brutal molestation of children, have only bred another set of problems. As a result, with direct reference to the home, many mothers and fathers do not understand their respective parental roles, and therefore, do not provide the balancing input which builds secure and maturing kids.

Moreover, too few parents bother to think through the social challenges, personal questions and tumultuous trials faced by their children. Thus, not having gone to the trouble of thoughtfully weighing and anticipating these matters, they are unprepared to help their child learn to think wisely and behave discretionately.

Furthermore, misbehavior is too seldom seriously or punitively confronted. For fear of violating the newly espoused social taboo — "To spank is to spoil" (or, worse yet, to be accused of child-battering), parents exercise a hands-off attempt at correction and reproof. Discipline's foundation is eroded, and the result is children who only acknowledge authority on their own terms.

4. Infidelity with biblical principles of finance. Ignorance of budgeting principles, reckless spending, surrender to the appearances of afflu-

"With other pastors, I have a dream that the families I pastor might become recognized in our community as uniquely fulfilled, fruitful and joyous people."

nce, undisciplined credit practices, impatient assistance on "having it now," etc., all result from the home being barraged with invitations to financial ruin. They are devouring wolves of greed trapped in lambskins of "you need it now." Couples, especially young ones, are so readily hooked through inexperience and peer pressures that they yield to a pattern of life that becomes a kind of spending spree which ends up selling out their marriage . . . or mortgaging their future.

These four forces are being exerted and they are taking their toll. The answer is in their being identified, first. Then, their power needs to be neutralized, and it can be by the power of the Holy Spirit engraining the truth of the Word of God in the heart and on the mind. Some basic biblical patterns of response will work. They need expansion beyond these remarks, but brief guidelines can at least start the process.

FIRST, launch an offensive against the mentality of tentative commitment. Ephesians 5 teaches a relationship between husband and wife that is paralleled with the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His redeemed Bride, His Church. The issue is commitment, not romance; duty, not delight; fidelity, not affection. Of course, this does not suggest or recommend a marriage is not to have romance, delight or affection. A rightly based and built relationship does and will! But, the durability of those features — especially through the fires of trial that any lifetime is bound to hold — depends on greater foundations than merely emotional ones. The *will* to lifelong commitment must be established at the inception.

The only adequate grounds for such an authoritative and demanding requirement are biblical (Matthew 19:6). And the only way to insure minimal casualties is for Church leadership to provide more thorough instruction, preparation and counsel.

SECOND, clear warning signs need to be raised against the flash floods of sensualism that are sweeping in upon the minds of the married today. Jude writes, "In the last times there will be those who will walk after their own ungodly lusts, who cause divisions, who are sensual and devoid of the Holy Spirit" (vs. 18, 19-Paraphrased). James spoke specifically of a wisdom not of divine origin, but of a kind that is "earthly, sensual, devilish" (3:15). It is difficult to avoid sounding prudish or impractically puritanical when addressing this problem, but a dual observation will suffice: (1) The Bible is very free in expressing the sexual delight a married couple ought to find in one another. Poetic references in Song of Solomon and Proverbs, plus such New Testament texts as I Corinthians 7:1-5 and Hebrews 13:4, clearly establish this mood of joyousness. (2) However, the same texts maintain sacred purity in approach. For example, *amian-* (translated undefiled in Hebrews 13:4) means unsoiled, free from that by which the nature of a thing is deformed and debased, or its force and vigor impaired." *Aselgia* (KJV, lasciviousness) is among the "old nature" traits rejected just prior to the lovely marriage passage in Ephesians 5 (see Ephesians 4:17-23). It means, "unbridled lust, excess, wanton manners. . .".

The world's handbooks on sexual expression and social discourse on the subject today all proceed beyond sensitive bounds. Excellently written, liberated, yet Christian and biblical guidance may be found in Wheat's book, mentioned earlier, and in Tim LaHaye's, "The Act of Marriage." Couples may be informed and fully freed to discover a growing fulfillment with one another and still avoid concession to or compromise with the sensualistic lust-spirit of the world.

THIRD, no husband or wife can grow as such without an enlarged perspective on the dimensions of personhood to which they each are called as a man and as a woman. The raising of children depends upon parents being shaped in the biblical image shown. It is a parallel point worthy of consideration, that just as God determined what man would be by making him in His own image, so too will parents only develop children of sensibility, balance, security and personal perspective if that image is visible to them in their parents.

Further, the correction, instruction, reproof and chastisement of a child requires sensible teaching. Isaiah wrote of times like ours, describing how children would become despots and tyrants, ruling over their parents (3:4) — the clear result of God's people failing to walk in God's way. For the child to learn his role, the parent must heed his own. There is a biblical way of instruction and discipline of children, and it is the parents' absolute responsibility. Like every other practice enjoined in the Word, (1) it is unpopular to the world, (2) it requires faith in participation, and (3) it bears the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Again, written and audio resources abound through inquiry at Christian bookstores, but seminars and special training sessions ought *first* to abound in our churches.

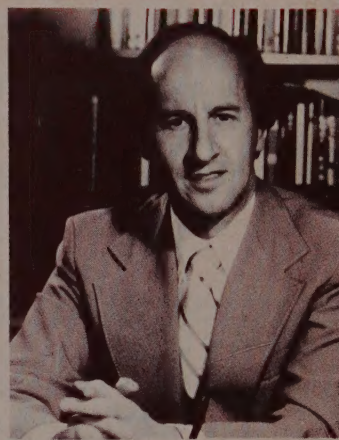
FOURTH, "I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes," Malachi 3:11 promises. It is a promise concerning personal economics, and it comes upon the heels of direct instruction concerning our giving of tithes and offerings. That foundation must be laid first or financial difficulties are virtually prophesied for the disobedience.

However, that will not substitute for the brainwashing that is needed to rinse from our minds the infection from media bombardment and credit promotion. Again, practical training, counsel and instruction in disciplines are needed, and *only* within the Church can a full-spectrum approach be expected. The Lord and His Kingdom must be prioritized, personal discipline and financial wisdom must be learned, and then financial blessings will be experienced. Guidance via tapes and writings may be sought, and I recommend Malcolm MacGregor's two books (one for adults, one for teaching children), "Your Money Matters."

Such brief an analysis of the problems and such brief guidelines for the solution of family futilities today can be deceptive if they are taken for anything more than just a beginning. But *do* begin here, and proceed with God's help. And "He who begins a good work in you will keep on working it, until the day of our Lord Jesus' return" (Philippians 1:6 — Paraphrased).

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By Dr. Jack Hayford, Pastor
"Church on the Way," Foursquare
Church of Van Nuys, California

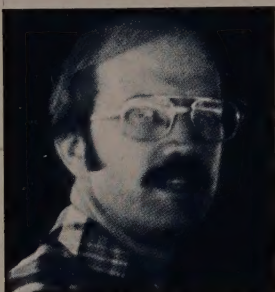
"The subtlety of the media's influence on our minds, and the failure of a preceding generation to teach its young people how to establish homes and families after God's order, are two basic reasons the average Christian home is unidentifiable, as such, in terms of its family life."

"... last year, over 2000 people came to Jesus through this ministry! ... our goal is to press into new areas all across the nation."

Gary Royer
Field Supervisor of Venezuela

Together VE

"Leslie and I received our call to the mission field at camp. We were about 14 years old and didn't know each other at the time. Later, and after three years of dating, we married. I really didn't know what the future held. I felt we would live on the mission field, but that was no problem. The Lord had given her the same burden He had given me. So, here we are!



"It's hard to grasp how completely the Lord leads us. As we look back now, we can see how specifically He was guiding us. After pastoring, we worked as District Youth Directors in the Eastern District. When we were sent to Brazil, we worked as National Youth Directors! At home, we did a lot with music, children and camps. And in Brazil? We did children's work, music and camps! But of course that wasn't all. We also taught in the Bible School and were very involved with the pastors.

"One of the greatest changes in our lives happened in Brazil. We had gone to a seminar where the Lord made the Bible really speak to our daily living. As we applied those things, doors to even greater ministry began to open to us. We were now busy working with churches, camps and even national television. For twelve years we worked in Brazil. And then, God moved us to Venezuela.

"Of course, we minister here in many of the same ways. But working as supervisor of this work makes it different. A lot of studying, writing and travel takes up our time. But we are seeing God do some powerful miracles. Let me tell you about one.

In 1967, Gary and Leslie arrived in Brazil with Lisa, four, and Lori, two. Now, 14 years later, in Caracas, Venezuela they also minister in music as a family in a variety of camps congresses and churches.



Venezuelans reaching out to Venezuelans is the result of faithful training by missionaries who have shared with them the love of Jesus Christ, and who have skillfully passed on His truth.



A discipling program and monthly pastors' seminars are important ingredients for training spiritually mature local leaders. These crucial elements of growth are receiving a high concentration of energy and time.



A PROFILE OF FOURSQUARE WORLD MINISTRIES VENEZUELA

4



Ministry to children eager to learn about the things of God is a joy now and a strong hope for the church of tomorrow. The Royers continue to encourage and be involved in this important area of ministry.



In the middle of a world with a sharp difference between rich and poor, and a high cost of living, the gospel is brought into the streets and into the lives and hearts of receptive people throughout Venezuela.



Venezuela is open to the gospel and each year many new churches are established.

Despite a busy schedule, the Royers know the value of making time to be together as a family.

"Serafin Contreras, President of the National Board, had the cartilage slip in both knees. As many of us came together for prayer, God miraculously healed him. He is now up and walking with no trouble. Praise the Lord!"

The work here began with missionary Edgar Coombs over 25 years ago. There are now more than 19 churches and 25 other meeting places. Last year, over 2,000 came to Jesus through this ministry!

We are now training leaders, starting many home groups, pressing into areas where there are no works, and in the future plan to reach the Caribbean islands.

"The Venezuelan people are very independent and do not easily become involved with those around them. We must be shaken loose from these feelings and allow the Lord to mold us together. Pray with us as we work with pastors each month in our seminars."

Prayer Focus

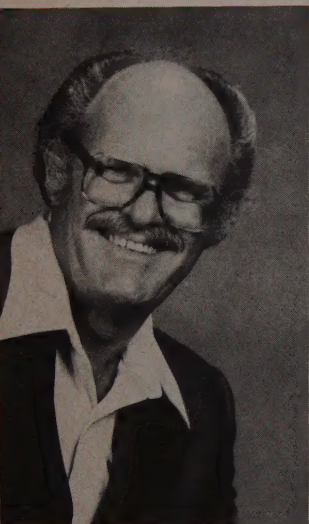
- For unity in God's Spirit.
- For insight and application from His Word.
- For our monthly pastors' seminars.
- For continued demonstrations of God's power.

Let's pray that God will answer these points of focus and will bless the Royers in their upcoming furlough with rest and renewal. And as they return, we will commit to this ministry in Venezuela . . .

Together!



Understanding Baptism With The Holy Spirit



The third in a series of four Viewpoint articles by Reverend Loren Callan, Pastor of the Arlington Foursquare Church in Riverside, California, on the basic concepts on which Foursquaredom was founded.

viewpoint

Isn't it interesting that when John the Baptist was speaking about the one who was to come being mightier than he, he went right to the point and said, "*He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit*" (Mark 1:8). Yet there is probably no subject which creates greater controversy when introduced into the church than the subject of Holy Spirit baptism. In this series of articles, we have been looking at Foursquaredom's four basic tenets of faith. Of the four, this one is probably the least understood and felt by many people to be the least important and most optional. Many who know Him as Savior, have experienced Him as healer, and believe in Him as coming King, reject knowing Him as baptizer with the Holy Spirit. The Church has accepted the fact of salvation, and much of the Church has given at least lip service to the fact of divine healing. Yet we have been totally divided because of the rejection of the majority of the Christian community of the validity of Holy Spirit baptism as set forth in Acts 2:4. And this is in spite of the fact that nowhere does the Bible teach that it is an option. We have not been given license to relegate any of the four into a secondary position. These are not just tenets of faith for a denomination. They combine to make up the total composite of the life of Christ. We are not speaking about a church, we are speaking of the living Christ when we say He is: Savior, Baptizer, Healer and soon coming King. And when John introduced the world's long awaited Messiah, he chose the fact of baptism with the Holy Spirit as the distinguishing factor. Indeed we need to make Paul's prayer for the Ephesians our prayer for churches today: "... *that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God*" (Ephesians 3:19) and "... *be ye filled with the Spirit*" (Ephesians 5:18).

The reason many shy away from receiving the fullness of the Spirit is probably because they place the baptism with the Holy Spirit in the realm of the unknown and view it as a scary experience. Much of what has been witnessed as Holy Spirit manifestation is not understood and is therefore sidestepped. Yet, this is a vital part of our developing relationship with Christ and is a dimension of fullness into which He would take us. While we might fear an experience never experienced before, we ought not fear a furtherance of our relationship with a loving Savior.

Just as salvation is a personal relationship with Christ into which we have entered, so is being baptized with the Holy Spirit.

I mentioned earlier that many view this as an optional experience. A well-known denominational preacher recently said, "There is no way to stay alive in the born again experience apart from an infilling of the Spirit of the living God." The only way we can effectively live out our relationship with Christ, so that Christianity is relevant rather than just church cultured religion, is through the inner power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given so that we can have the power to live life in such a way as to show forth the reality of Christ to a dying world. It is one of the tragedies of church history that much of Christendom has turned its back on the Pentecostal experience and has thus been left powerless to reach its world. The only way for us to live effective, life-producing lives that are consistent with the miracle-producing life of Christ is through the power of the Holy Spirit. "... *Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, sayeth the Lord of hosts*" (Zechariah 4:6). How can the Church ever hope to effectively minister life as an extension of the life of Christ if it denies the power given for that purpose? I recently came upon a thought provoking statement that said, "When we try to do our will by our strength, we are into humanism; when we try to do God's will by our strength, we are into religionism. But when we do God's will by God's power, we have stepped into abundant life." That is the Spirit-filled life.

I suppose the area of greatest concern and controversy regarding the baptism with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. We tend to be suspicious of what we don't understand, or what we cannot clearly define and explain. There is a vast gap between the Pentecostal camp and those who want it known that they are non-Pentecostal. They want nothing to do with what they consider to be emotional instability. Yet there is no way to deny the validity of tongues in the Bible. Neither can it be denied that it is a Biblical manifestation of the Holy Spirit. We who are Pentecostals know speaking in tongues to be a powerful experience. It is one in which the Holy Spirit adds a dimension to our lives. Out of the gift of tongues as a daily part of our life comes boldness and effectiveness. It is not accidental that out of all evangelical Christianity, the fastest growing churches are Pentecostal. There is a validity and a power that is undeniable in the phenomenon of tongues. Perhaps the secret to the worldwide growth of charismatic churches is in the concept that Pentecostals have opened themselves to all of God's gifts for His

Youth outlook

Reverend Ed Stanton

National Director of Youth Ministries

Four years ago, I turned a corner in my relationship with youth. Riding a school bus brating with thirty-six energized teenage boys returning home from a week long, fifty mile marathon through the High Sierras is not what caused the change (although it did accelerate the aging process). Their excited conversation did not move me. It was the look I saw on one boy's face — insecurity.

In my seat I watched from an unseen perspective. He had done well during the week. He hiked at the front and wanted to set the pace (always faster). Though smaller framed than thirteen than most his age, he compensated for any disadvantage by always trying harder. He was always the first one up, volunteering for every task. Self-sufficiency, however, is not security.

I wanted to rise, sit next to him and hold him in my arms. He wouldn't have liked that much. "What would the other guys think?" The forming of his identity seemed so remote. He was unsure about so much. It was at this point I turned the corner. I realized he needed more affection now than at any time in his life since birth. And yet, he would struggle if I hugged him. I set myself to do so anyway. I also ached because I knew his parents weren't affectionate towards him. They had trouble touching one another, and I knew they didn't touch their children.

Here was one who needed a parent's hug, their secure, expressed love. And here was one who if touched now, would learn how to touch his son at some point down the road. Here was one who if embraced now, would learn how to embrace others. After all, isn't that the picture of the Father's heart who touched us with His Son?

Church. It is in that yielding that a life or a body of believers can become totally effective for Christ.

Jesus Christ, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. We need to know Him in that dimension. This is the river of life, of which Jesus spoke, that will flow out of us. We are to be a riverbed, not a container. As a riverbed, we are open ended for the inflow and for the outflow. There can be no outflow from our lives to a dead world unless there is inflow. The counterpart to that is that unless there is an outflow there will be stagnation. So, being filled with the Spirit allows for the inflow of the Holy Spirit and also for an outflow that effectively reaches and dynamically changes our world for Christ. There is nothing you can't do if you are willing to be a riverbed.

Local Church, continued from page 3.

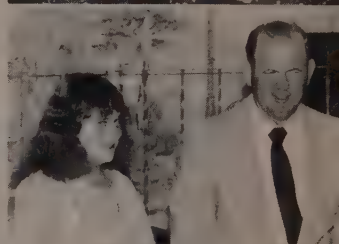
by step to where she is ministering today. In addition, she is a member of the American Association on Mental Deficiency in the Religion and Education subdivisions, as well as being certified with the Religious Certification Agency for Retardation, Inc.

Certainly it takes a special person to work with "special" people, such as Bobby. And anyone who has worked with Ruthellen Crawford can tell you that the beauty of her smile, her gentle attitude, and patient ways reflect the love of God in mighty ways to the many lives she touches each day. Sharing from her heart, Ruthellen reflects, "I believe Christ commanded us to teach the Word of God by action, word, and deed. Ministering to the families of the handicapped as well as the individual is very essential. The parents and siblings of the mentally retarded have heartaches and trials that only by the Holy Spirit can a minister know how to deal with situations that arise. Faith, hope and love give the strength needed to sustain. Of course love is the greatest of these. Sometimes this means loving the unlovely, and going that extra mile. As Christians we have opportunity to reach out to the handicapped, who comprise about 10% of each church congregation."

As you become acquainted with a "special" person you will soon discover that in spite of their apparent "handicaps" they offer to the world an opportunity to minister in all five areas of their lives — physically, emotionally, socially, mentally, and physically. Taking care of these needs becomes rewarding to the one who becomes involved in caring. These "special" people possess the exceptional quality of accepting and trusting the ones who present Christ in His fulness. Millions of handicapped people give the world the opportunity to live before them a holy and righteous life.

What would the Lord have you to do to help these "special" people to reach their potential in life, to expose them to the love of God and thus awaken their souls to the need of a Savior? What can you learn from them? — To never give up; to keep fighting against difficulty, fear and defeat; and to know that as long as they are teaching you to overcome obstacles, you will never be a loser. What effort can you put forth to allow the "special" people in your world to show forth the glory of God?

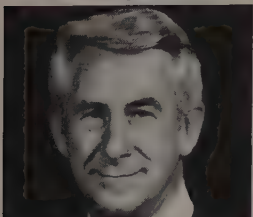
Editor's Note: If you are interested in discovering more about Special Education ministries and what you can do to become involved, you may write to: Rev. Ruthellen Crawford, c/o Angelus Temple, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.



From top: Learning to read the Bible with Ruthellen is one of Vivian's favorite learning experiences; Pam Gilkey faithfully interprets for the hearing impaired; Cherry Youngblood has made it easier for Mickey Giles to study his lesson by translating it into braille form.



Jack Hayford



Allan Hamilton

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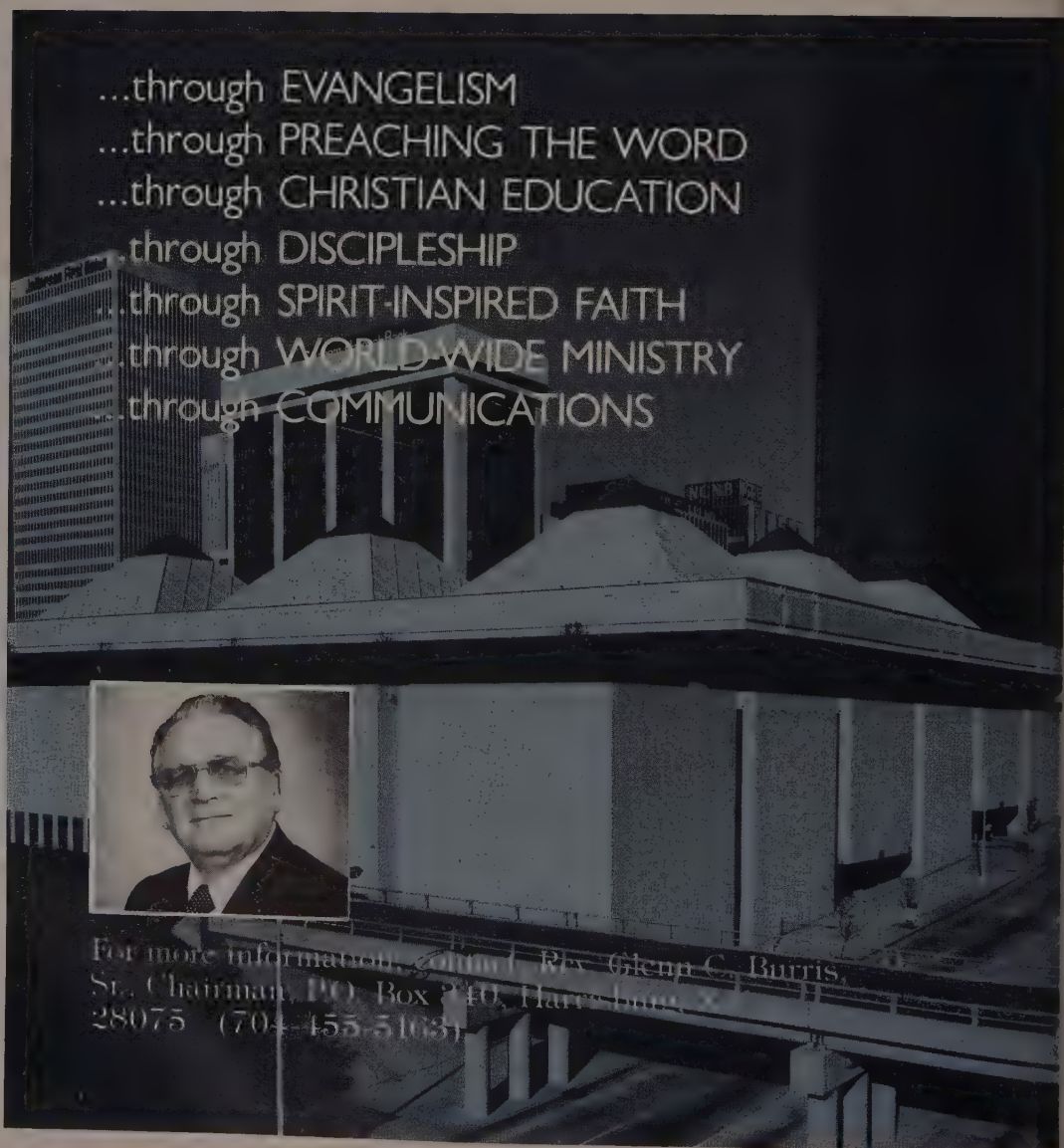


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heritage

Jesus was the first Gospel missionary, bringing the glorious Foursquare Gospel from heaven to earth. This He clearly set forth as He read the words recorded in Luke 4:17-19. His entire life was that of a missionary seeking the lost, exemplifying God's love to meet humanity's need.

Our founder, Aimee Semple McPherson, followed in the Master's footsteps, laying aside all the comforts of home and the joyous pursuits of youth as she joined Robert Semple, her husband, and as newlyweds they became missionaries to Hong Kong and Macao. They beheld the teeming millions of lost souls in the Orient in dire need of redemption through our Lord and Savior's saving grace. They jointly accepted the call of the Holy Spirit to take Christ to the spiritually dying masses.

Aboard the Empress, they sailed for Ireland and then on to London, buoyed with the knowledge that God's gracious message of love would meet the needy hearts and that the same God would also provide all of their needs. While in London, Aimee Semple McPherson was invited to speak before 5,000 people seated in tiers to the very top of the fifth balcony of the auditorium. Thus as a teenager, she delivered her first sermon, entitled *Lost and Restored*, using Joel 1:4 as her text. This sermon moved the sea of people to both clap in rejoicement and wipe their eyes in compassion. The next day the young couple left London for China by way of the Red Sea. All along the route her fertile mind was receiving a deeper missionary vision, and she was ready to do God's work upon their arrival in Hong Kong.

Together they ministered until the unexpected death of Robert Semple. Brokenhearted, bereaved and penniless, Aimee Semple McPherson faced her future with her firstborn child, Roberta, in her arms. It was then that God miraculously provided a means of returning to America where she was to spend months in soul searching travail as God prepared her for a greater missionary task.

Finally she abandoned her own will and responded in total dedication to the call of the Lord. Up and down the east coast of our nation she held tent meetings, often pitching the tent herself. God gave her souls and blessed her ministry. Finally came God's call to her to pursue her missionary activities in California. He led her to the site where Angelus Temple was to be erected. No more had she awarded contracts for the construction of Angelus Temple than God called her

to make a missionary journey to Australia in November, 1922. Here God gave her tremendous meetings with many thousands finding Christ as their Savior.

As the years went by, though her ministry in Angelus Temple was tremendously blessed with overflowing crowds, her heart always longed to reach out to the foreign countries and take the message as a missionary. Her missionary journeys between 1926-1938 took her to Europe, London, the Holy Land with special ministry in Egypt, Shanghai, China, the Philippine Islands, Central America, India, Greece, and an intensive endeavor in Panama. Each time upon her return from these missionary trips she challenged her people to become missionaries and sent them out and assisted them in starting their work in various foreign countries until a vast foreign missionary program evolved.

As the years passed her missionary vision never faded or waned. One of the last missionary trips was to Mexico in 1943 where she contacted a disease that contributed to her passing and heavenly promotion. She gave her life to the cause of missions and evangelization. This was the commencement of our Foursquare missionary heritage. It is a heritage that has become more intense and extensive with each passing year. **4**



Aimee Semple McPherson
visiting a South American
Mission Station in 1931.

Christian trends at a glance...

... The largest Christian church in Thailand is a congregation of 3,000 Cambodians meeting in a refugee camp — more Christians than the total number known in all of Cambodia in 1975.

(End Times Messenger)

... Pollster George Gallup, Jr. is turning up facts that ought to both encourage and disturb every Christian. A few of these include ... Half the nation's 61 million unchurched adults say they might be persuaded to become involved in a church if invited ... One out of every five Americans 18 years old and over identifies himself as an evangelical ... Forty-three percent of America's evangelicals live in the South and about one-fourth are in the Midwest ... Forty million adults go to church each week (down from a high of 49 million in 1955 and 1958).

(Moody Monthly)

... All Americans who are "sickened by the continuing slaughter of innocent children through abortion" are asked to turn on their automobile lights during the daytime on the 22nd of each month. This action, which began on January 22nd, is to be repeated until "our society realizes that this form of legalized murder is a horrible crime and must be stopped."

(EP News Service)

... "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men and women."

— Warren W. Wiersbe

inside our Foursquare family

Community Concern:

"Bible Class" at Local High School

After being elected president of the Pampa, Texas Ministerial Alliance, one of Rev. Sammy Jamison's first responsibilities was to assign various ministers to teach a class on the Bible at the local high school. As the pastor of the Pampa, Tx. Foursquare Church, Rev. Jamison has realized the need to become involved in the community surrounding his church.

In a day when the Bible has been totally removed from most schools across our nation, it is thrilling to know that a Foursquare pastor has charge of a "Bible Class" on the campus of a high school where the students get full credit for the course. The Ministerial Alliance of Pampa supplies the teachers with necessary tools at no cost to the school district.

In the past this class had no plan or curriculum and few ministers were ever willing to teach. Only 15-18 students ever signed up for the class. Rev. Jamison, however, has written a curriculum with six-week units so that the students will study Luke, Acts and a New Testament Survey the first semester and Old Testament characters the second. Twenty-four students signed up for the first semester and forty-seven have recently signed up for this second semester, which has just started, making it necessary to conduct two classes. In addition, there is now a waiting list of ministers in the community who are anxious to share the Word of God with the students.

Rev. Jamison comments that he is only concerned about one girl in his class, who in answer to the question, "Who were the two men who passed the victim of thieves before the Good Samaritan?", wrote "a Republican and Pharisee!"

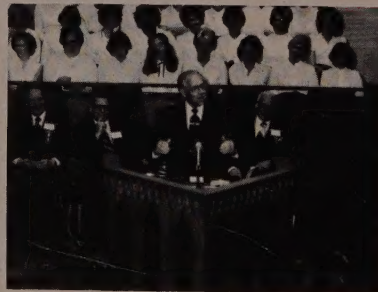
Football Appreciation Service Palm Springs, California

"I realize now the evening couldn't have ended in a nicer way — eight young, strong football players accepting the Lord Jesus Christ!" reports Lisa Hathaway of the Palm Springs, Ca. Foursquare Church (Desert Chapel). It all started with the idea of a "Football Appreciation Service" for the local high school varsity football team. It was held in

place of the regular Sunday evening service and the entire team and their parents were invited. That task was made easy as the head coach. Gary Skinner, and his three assistant coaches, Carlyle Lyneis, Ted Jones, and Bob Hathaway attend Desert Chapel and are all born again Christians.

Approximately thirty boys showed up that evening along with several sets of parents. After hearing testimonies and "pep talks" about being on the Lord's winning team, an altar call was given. Eight young men committed their lives to the Lord during prayer. "We felt this was an answer to prayer and we thank the Lord for wooing those young souls at such a tender and sometimes problem-ridden age," shares Lisa. "So many times the path 'everyone else' is taking has much more appeal. What a privilege to see these boys accept Jesus at this time in their lives. We are trusting the Lord for dramatic results in the seeds that were planted that night, not only for the eight that accepted Jesus, but also for the others that heard God's Word."

People Honored:



Dr. M.E. Nicholls, General Supervisor and Vice President, addressed the delegates of the recent PFNA (Pentecostal Fellowship of North America) Convention in Moline, Illinois with the message "The Promise of Pentecost." Dr. Nicholls is the PFNA Chairman.

G.L.A.S.S. Honors 3 Foursquare Women

At the annual G.L.A.S.S. (Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association) Convention three Foursquare women were honored for their dedicated service to the Sunday school over the years. Mrs. Elsie Hunt, of Pomona, Ca., has taught Sunday school for sixty continuous years, beginning in 1920. Prior to that time she had worked for two years as a Sunday school helper. In 1930, Mrs. Hunt

was told that a class of 75 was too large and so she was asked to divide the class. By the next year, however, she again had 75 young people in Sunday school.

Dr. Leita Mae Steward, secretary to President Rolf K. McPherson, has taught the Christian Men and Women's Class of Angelus Temple for over 28 years. Tremendous spiritual growth has been evidenced in her students over the years as their learning has brought change in their lives. Many of her students are now teaching others, as was her desire in the beginning. Dr. Steward's primary interest is the individual.

Mrs. Isabelle Helmle was given honor as one of the founders of the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association. She has been chairman of the G.L.A.S.S. convention several times and has also faithfully served the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in the area of Christian Education for over 28 years. At present, Mrs. Helmle serves as Library Coordinator at L.I.F.E. Bible College in Los Angeles, Ca.

An Invitation:

American Festival of Evangelism

The American Festival of Evangelism is a call for concerned Christians to consider the United States as a mission field. Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, July 27-30, 1981, the four-day gathering will focus on the unreached peoples in America. Twenty thousand participants from more than 150 major church bodies in America are expected to attend.

Renowned Christian leaders will conduct 200 seminars and workshops focusing in on Evangelizing, Discipling and Equipping. If you are interested in attending this historic event, contact: American Festival of Evangelism, P.O. Box 1981, Kansas City, MO 64141, (703) 893-3595.

Editor's Note: If you are a Foursquare licensed minister and are not receiving the new "Minister's Update," a quarterly newsletter to ministers, please send a request to be added to the "Minister's Update" mailing list to: Mrs. Pam Duarte, Editor, "Minister's Update," 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

Raymond Cox

Current Events & Comments

An irony in Israel is the fact that a sect of Jews here, which longs most fervently for the Messiah's arrival, likewise hates the Zionist State more vehemently than do any Arab extremists! The sect calls itself *Naturei Karta* — "guardians of the city." I talked at length with its leader, Moishe Hirsch, who recently made headlines for championing local autonomy for Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox Mea Shearim district, including separate garbage collection, water supply, and electricity source. Hirsch confirmed that his sect believes that a Jewish state has no right to exist before Messiah comes, that his people pray daily for an Arab victory over Israel, and refuse to speak Hebrew and use Israeli money. He also told me that they stay away from the Western Wall, because it is a symbol to them of unjust Zionist conquest. However, a friend in the government tourist office confided that he sees sect members at the wall who sneak there occasionally.

Rabbi Hirsch rejoices over recent United Nations' actions unfavorable to Israel. The sect would welcome Yasser Arafat as a liberator if he could overthrow Israel and march his PLO into Jerusalem. Nevertheless, they remain the most

fanatical of Mea Shearim's fanatic aspirants for Messiah's arrival.

However, if the *Naturei Karta* survive until Messiah comes they are in for a big surprise identity-wise! They don't know exactly whom they are expecting, but they do know who they are not expecting, namely Jesus. But HE is whom they are going to get!

"Are you really expecting the Messiah?" I asked Hirsch. "Yes, we expect him any day now," he beamed.

"But what will you do if the Messiah turns out to be Jesus Christ?" I cautiously challenged. "He won't," Hirsch snapped. "Jesus was a Jew who stepped out of line and deserved the punishment he received."

"You didn't answer my question," I pressed. "What if the Messiah is Jesus?" "He won't be," Hirsch snorted. It took several minutes of pleadings like, "Answer my question, please. What if the Messiah is Jesus?" before he eventually grunted, "Then we'd have to change our views." "Would you accept Him?" I pressed. He grudgingly conceded that they would.

Well, he will and everybody else will accept Jesus, because the coming Messiah will be the Christ who came first to earth in New Testament times. The United Nations cannot solve the Middle East crisis because it cannot supply a Messiah, only a mediator. But God will one day send the Messiah, announcing, "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:6). Only then will the world experience genuine and lasting peace.



Building a Christian library

The following books are recommended by Reverend Ross Fox, pastor of the Courtenay, B.C. Foursquare Church in Canada.

Listen To the Animals by William L. Coleman, Bethany Fellowship, Inc., \$3.50.

This is a unique book especially useful as devotionals for families with young children. Each chapter, about one page in length, concludes with a scripture verse, three questions, and a large print positive punch line to help remember the moral of the story. A must for parents who wish to give their children an appreciation for God's creation of the animal world.

How To Really Love Your Child by Dr. Ross Campbell, Victor Books, \$2.50.

Parent or non-parent would benefit from several chapters in this book which help us to understand that our Heavenly Father's attitude toward us should be our attitude toward our children. Three practical areas are covered that will help a child to feel loved

and find emotional wholeness: 1) the necessity of physical touch, 2) positive eye contact, 3) how to give focused attention.

The Total Man by Dan Benson, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., \$4.95.

The two sections of this book — "The Liberated Man" and "The Liberated Husband" — cover a wide range of help for men. The author deals with subjects from success, sex, fathers, financial freedom, and many more, to the closing chapter on "101 Ways to Make Your Wife Feel Like a Special Woman." Every man would be a better man for the Master and those near him by reading this book.

Speaking in Tongues by Larry Christenson, Dimension Books, \$2.25.

An excellent work by a charismatic Lutheran pastor, the author deals with the subject of tongues as a "sign," a "gift," and a "ministry." The concluding chapter entitled "Is Speaking in Tongues for Me?" makes this a good little book for anyone beginning to seek information on this subject. It would also be profitable for long-time pentecostals to articulate more clearly the matter of speaking in tongues.

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